



HEALTH ADVISORY (#40)

Pregnant and Postpartum Women with Influenza: Reporting and Management

TO: West Virginia Infection Preventionists, Prenatal and Obstetric Providers, Hospital Intensivists, ICU Directors, and Emergency Departments

FROM: Catherine C. Slemp, MD, MPH, Acting State Health Officer
WVDHHR, Bureau for Public Health

DATE: December 8, 2010

LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO COMMUNITY OBSTETRICIANS, COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS, HOSPITAL-BASED PHYSICIANS, INFECTION PREVENTIONISTS, LABORATORY DIRECTORS, AND OTHER APPLICABLE PARTNERS

OTHER RECIPIENTS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, STAFF, ETC.

The purpose of this HAN is to alert providers to information and resources for management of influenza in pregnant and post partum women, a group at increased risk of complications from flu.

Management:

Again this year the CDC has established a 24/7 phone support line: 404-368-2133. Flu Line staff will be available to provide clarification on CDC guidance for providers caring for critically ill pregnant or postpartum women via telephone consultation with a board certified obstetrician.

Prevention:

CDC, ACOG, AAFP, ACNM, ANA, and AMA all recommend that pregnant women receive seasonal influenza vaccine. It is safe and can be given in any trimester. All providers should encourage pregnant and post partum women, including those breastfeeding, to get vaccinated.

Reporting:

In order to further guide influenza management and prevention efforts for pregnant and post partum women, please report all ICU admissions and deaths among pregnant and up to six weeks postpartum women with influenza infection, any strain, diagnosed by a positive:

1. Rapid influenza diagnostic test
2. rRT-PCR for influenza
3. DFA/IFA, or
4. Viral culture

Case report forms can be found on the WV Bureau for Public Health website at:

<http://www.wvdep.org/AZIndexofInfectiousDiseases/Influenza/tabid/1518/Default.aspx>

Send by e-mail: dhhrdide@wv.gov or fax to (304) 558-8736. The Department for Infectious Diseases and Epidemiology will forward the information to the CDC.

This message was directly distributed by the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health to West Virginia Infection Preventionists, WV Hospital Association, Local Health Departments, and other partners. Receiving entities are responsible for further disseminating the information as appropriate to the target audiences.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance, warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation. May not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation. Unlikely to require immediate action.